National charter on children's rights

4633. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement National Charter on Children's Rights in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any draft charter has been prepared and circulated to various Ministries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) in pursuance with the National Agenda for Governance the Government proposed to adopt a National Charter for Children, the details of which are under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Department of Women & Child Development has prepared a draft Charter for Children. An Approach Paper to the National Charter for Children was prepared by the Department and circulated to the concerned Ministries and Departments of the Government of India as well as to the State Governments and UT Administrations for their comments/views. Most of these Ministries/Departments/State Governments/UT Administrations have agreed for adoption of a National Charter for Children. Accordingly, a draft National Charter for Children has been prepared which is to be finalized shortly. The following are the details of the proposed National Charter for Children:

Objectives

- To ensure that the laws, policies and programmes for children are effectively implemented.
- To remove structural causes related to all issues affecting children's rights in the wider societal context, and to ensure that every child has access to health care, nutrition and education.

- To awaken the conscience of the community in order to protect children from violation of their rights.
- To make State and Civil Society jointly responsible for protecting child rights.

Features of the proposed Charter

- Highlighting the family and social values.
- Incorporating duties of children towards family and society.
- Emphasis on communities role.
- Inclusion of all elements and objectives of our existing and intended policies and programmes for children being implemented by several Ministries and Departments of the Central and State Governments and Voluntary Organisations.
- Protection of Rights of Children which includes following:

(a) Right to Survival, Health, Nutrition and Standard of Living.

(b) Right to Leisure, Early Childhood Care and Education.

(c) Right to Protection and Against Economic Exploition.

(d) Right to Protection of Girl Child.

(e) Right to Equality, Life and Liberty and Identity.

(f) Right to Freedom of Expression, to seek and receive information.

(g) Right to Freedom of Association & Peaceful Assembly.

(h) Right to Family.

(i) Rights of Refugee Children, Children with Disabilities and Children from Marginalised & Disadvantaged Communities.

(j) Right of Child Victims.

(k) Right to Child Friendly Procedure.